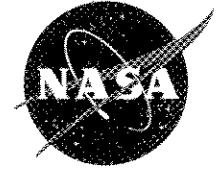


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 25, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Space Studies Board Colloquium and Reception on June 26, 2008

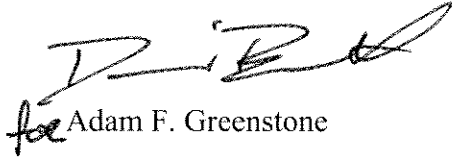
On June 26, 2008, the Space Studies Board (SSB) of the National Academies will conclude their seminar series on "Forging the Future of Space Science," with a day long colloquium at the National Academies and an evening reception and lecture to be held at the National Air and Space Museum, in Washington, DC. The purpose of the SSB seminar series is to engage scientists and the public in assessing the scientific and social contributions of space science. The event is an all day public colloquium consisting of panel sessions and lectures. Participants will be provided with morning break refreshments, a light lunch, and afternoon break refreshments for a total cost of \$21.40 per person.

Following the colloquium, there will be a reception and lecture at the National Air and Space Museum. The SSB James A. Van Allen Lecture "Explorer 1: Gateway to the Never Ending Wonders of Space Science," will be given by Dr. Frank B. McDonald. Attendees will include the members of the SSB, employees from NASA, academia, local officials, Congress (key Members and staff), and representatives from industry. The per person cost of the reception is approximately \$54.00 per person.

In addition, each attendee will receive an assortment of mementos from various contributing corporations including a seminar series brochure, a commemorative poster and a DVD of SSB reports. Additionally, they will receive a commemorative pen, laser pointer, and pin and other small souvenir items. The total value of these items is under \$20. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion. Accordingly, in addition to accepting free attendance at the event, NASA employees may accept these mementos. NASA invitees are reminded not to exceed the \$50 cap on gifts from one source in a calendar year.

I find that the colloquium and reception both meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the two events because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the day long series of lectures and panel and at the reception will allow NASA representatives to exchange views on the scientific and social

contributions of space science with people from academia, government, industry, and the SSB. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect any of the sponsors, such as procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.



for Adam F. Greenstone